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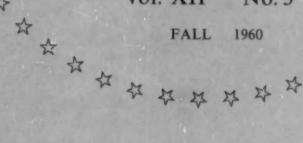
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ACCOUTREMENT PLATES OF THE FEDERAL FORCES, 1861-1865

by William G. Gavin'

Undoubtedly every collector of United States military equipment has at one time or another encountered the familiar oval shaped "US" marked belt and cartridge box plates used by the United States Army for several decades of the 19th century. Inasmuch as they were the most common types used by the Federal forces during the Civil War it is logical to devote considerable attention to them.

U. S. Army ordnance regulations² prescribed that one oval "US" plate be affixed to the cartridge box flap and one on the waist belt to serve as a waist belt plate. In addition, a circular device bearing the U. S. eagle was specified for wear on the cartridge box shoulder straps or belts. These plates were made by the thousands during the Civil War and are by far the most common types found in battlefield collections.

Of the two devices mentioned above, the circular eagle plate appears to have had the earlier origin in the United States service for there is mentioned in the Ordnance Regulations of 18343 a "Belt plate, round brass with eagle." This was fitted with three hooks to join the two branches of the bayonet belt, and was to survive in this form as a buckle for the rather similar non-commissioned officers sword shoulder belt from 1841 through the Civil War. Variations exist in the style of attachments that are imbedded in the solder filled backs of the thin stamped brass plates that carry the eagle design. Most plates had hooks of iron wire but one model is found with hooks of the "arrowhead" type frequently found on the oval "US" waist belt plate. Although the prescribed diameter was 2.5 inches, one type is known with a 2.25 inch diameter. No reasons are known for this variation and it can probably be attributed to a contractor's discrepancy.

Although in the 1841 ordnance regulations' the eagle plate is referred to as the "infantry bayonet belt plate," there is also noted the fact that the bayonet belt was about to be discontinued and the bayonet scabbard was about to be attached to a frog sliding on the waist belt. This change was effected shortly thereafter and resulted in redesigning the attachment so that two iron wire eyes projected from the solder in the back to allow the plate to be pinned to the cartridge box shoulder belt. In the 1850 regulations' we therefore find that this plate is by then specified as the "cartridge box shoulder belt plate" and it was again so prescribed in the 1861 regulations. The eagle plate can be noted in several of THE COMPANY'S MUIA plates depicting United States soldiers from the late 1830's to the late 1860's.

The same model circular eagle device was evidently accepted by the Confederate States as a shoulder belt plate. It is prescribed in the 1863 Confederate Ordnance Manual as the authorized "cartridge box belt plate." These same regulations specify the oval belt and cartridge box plates with the "CS" device in lieu of the "US". It is doubtful, however, if Confederate troops ever actually adopted the eagle plate for general use in the field.

Shown below are the regulation eagle plate and the smaller 21/4 inch variety.

The first known reference to the familiar "US" oval plate is found under the ordnance regulations for the year 1839. This authority mentions a "new pattern" cartridge box plate as being adopted. We can well surmise that this entry relates to the "US" type although no detailed description is made. In the 1841 regulations, the "US" oval is not only mentioned, but it is described in detail.

The 1841 regulations prescribe a small "US"



oval of 2.8 inches by 1.6 inches for carbine and pistol cartridge boxes, and, for the infantry waist belt plate. The box plates had two iron wire "eyes" (formed from a single wire) for affixing to the box flaps while the waist belt plates have a brass stud and hook for convenient fastening to the belt. These plates were made of stamped sheet brass backed with soft solder filling.

The large "US" oval was mentioned in the 1841 regulations for use on infantry cartridge boxes and for cavalry waist belt plates. Riflemen at this time wore the plates as prescribed for infantry.

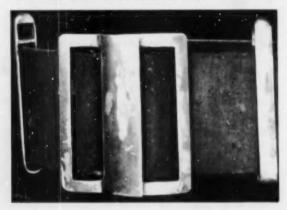
The exact dimensions of the large "US" oval devices were 3.5 inches by 2.2 inches. Hooks on



the large "US" oval belt plates were three in number, two being at one end. "Eyes" of iron wire were again used for the box plates. These plates were made of stamped brass with soft solder filler.

The large and small oval "US" plates continued in constant use through the time of the Civil War. They are mentioned in the 1850 ordnance manual and, again, in the 1861 manual. However, under the 1861 regulations the small ovals were eliminated.

Plates prescribed for riflemen under the 1850 regulations differed slightly from the 1841 authority in that the large oval was prescribed for the waist belt plate and the small oval as the cartridge box plate in the former. Under the 1861 authority, a special type clasp brass belt buckle was cited for riflemen in lieu of the large "US" oval. The clasp buckle was apparently adopted from the French for use with the Model 1855 rifle and is first described as the "No. 10 brass buckle."



Both the large and small oval "US" plates were worn throughout the Civil War as is evidenced from contemporary photographs and from battle-field finds. It is likely that the small ovals were manufactured prior to the war under the regulations in existence then. It is not likely that their production would continue after their elimination from the 1861 regulations.

Large oval "US" plates were produced in a number of locations in both government and private facilities. However, the overwhelming majority were made up in government armories as is borne out by a study of the report of purchases by the Army Chief of Ordnance for the period of 1861-1866. This report indicates that there were 257,726 oval and eagle plates purchased from private contractors during this period. This quantity represents only a small fraction of the number that

must have been manufactured. In this connection, it is interesting to note that an annual replacement factor of about 6.2% was computed for these items. Reference is made to this in the 1861 ordnance manual.

It was the common practice for private contractors to mark those plates manufactured in their facilities. Some of the markings that have been noted are: "W. H. Smith, Brooklyn;" "Wilkinson, Springfield, Mass.;" "H. A. Dingee;" "J. T. Pittman;" "E. Gaylord;" "W. L. Lowell;" and "Boyd and Sons, Boston." The name of "T. J. Sheppard," an Ordnance Inspector, also is occasionally seen. Apparently plates made in governmental facilities were unmarked. At least none have been so noted.

A rather unusual marking is the word "Patent" on the rear of one plate. No other marking appears and the particular meaning is unknown.

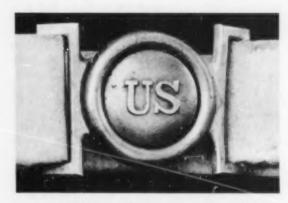
There may have been other manufacturers than those noted above. Those listed have been compiled from battlefield specimens. With the exception of the "Smith" and the "Gaylord" plates, the majority of the marked plates were found on 1862 and 1863 battlefields. This seems to indicate that fewer were made outside of government facilities as the war progressed. It is a good possibility that many of the marked plates were left-overs from the Mexican War contracts and were issued out to the 1861 and 1862 regiments.

There are countless die variations in the "US" plates. Generally, they all conform to the prescribed dimensions, but vary in the exact shape of the oval and in the style of the "US" lettering.

A medium sized "US" oval belt plate, identical to the regulation "US" plate in other respects was the subject of an entry in the Collector's Fieldbook, MC&H, X, pp. 49-50. This item was probably made up in small quantities by a private concern for one of the early Civil War regiments. Two have been recovered from two different 1862 battlefield sites.

One variation in the "US" oval belt plates is that in some instances the single hook is found on "U" end of the plate and in others on the "S" end of the plate. It is possible that this variation is intentional and that the hooks were varied depending upon whether the plate was to be used for cavalry or infantry. No definite information is known to the author on this particular point.

The 1841 ordnance manual prescribes a two piece, cast brass belt plate designed for use on the artillery saber belt. The outer diameter of the



female clasp is specified at 1.95 inches while the diameter of the male clasp is 1.4 inches. This plate was designed for use with the waist belts which supported either the artilleryman's short sword, or the artilleryman's saber. This particular two piece buckle is mentioned again in the 1850 ordnance manual and under this authority is also prescribed for use by sappers. It was eliminated under the 1861 ordnance regulations. A sample of this model buckle is photographically shown. This particular item must have seen considerable Civil War use as evidenced from numerous samples seen in battlefield relic collections. The well known Confederate two-piece, wreath type, "CS" belt plate is believed to have been adopted from the design of the artillery buckle.

The belt plate prescribed for wear by infantry non-commissioned officers and also for wear on saber and sword belts by cavalry and artillery is the familiar rectangular model illustrated in the plate. Ordnance regulations for 1861 specifically prescribe this device. It is 3.5 inches long by 2.2 inches in width, is made of cast brass, and bears the United States eagle surrounded with an



applied wreath of German silver. Photographic and other contemporary data on the Civil War period indicates that infantry non-coms seldom wore this type plate, but were, instead, only equipped with the familiar "US" oval pattern. However, this type plate was commonly used by cavalry and artillery throughout the war. It is an extremely well designed device and served well in supporting the belt designed to carry side arms. Contemporary records indicate that only 14,275 of this type buckle were made by "outside" contractors during the 1861-1865 period. Without a doubt, the great majority of this pattern were manufactured in Government facilities.

The average Federal commissioned officer wore a rectangular sword belt plate identical to or closely similar to the type just described. Some officers wore the government issue plates while others preferred those procured from private manufacturers of such material. The latter types generally have the encircling wreath design cast into the buckle as an integral part of it in lieu of the Government type with the German silver wreath applied. Officer plates of this pattern vary in slight details as a result of their being manufactured by different firms. It is believed that the greater majority of commissioned officers in the United States service purchased their waist belt plates along with allied equipment rather than wear the issue type. A typical commissioned officer's sword belt plate is shown.

In addition to the models just described, one will note many United States Army and Militia plates of earlier and more specialized origin in battlefield relic collections and in contemporary photographs.

During the early days of the conflict, many plates falling into this category were pressed into service during the emergency by the newly organized regiments. No attempt will be made here to describe the many interesting varieties to be found. These, along with special regimental insignia and plates will be the subject of a later article by the author.

For many years plates of both large and small oval pattern and bearing the lettering "VMM" in lieu of "US" had created somewhat of a problem amongst collectors as to their definite identity. Many collectors believed them to be Confederate and the dubious title of "Virginia Minute-Men" was applied to them. Others claimed them to be of either Maine or Vermont origin. It is now known definitely that they were made up for Maine regiments and that "VMM," indeed, stands for Volunteer Maine Militia. Major John M. Gould in his very excellent History of the First - Tenth - Twentyninth Maine Regiments,8 p. 87, mentions that the 10th Maine Infantry was issued the "VMM" plates by the State of Maine at the time of their organization in the fall of 1861. The first 10 regiments organized by the State of Maine were equipped by the State and it is highly probable that these units were issued the state insignia. It is definitely known, however, that the 1st Maine Infantry did not wear them. Data compiled on battlefield finds of "VMM" insignia verifies the presence of low numbered Maine regiments in the



particular battlefield areas in which the finds are made.

The small oval pattern with single hooks on each end was used as the waist belt plate while the larger oval type with lead filled back was used as the cartridge box plate. This arrangement conforms to the provisions of the 1841 ordnance manual with regard to the wearing of the large and small oval "US" models for infantry. The small oval "VMM" plate differs from the small oval "US" type in that the former is merely stamped brass with no lead or solder filling in the back. The hooks are soldered into place.

As stated above, many "VMM" plates are found in those particular battlefield areas in which the early Maine regiments participated. As the war continued, it is probable that replacement "US" type plates were supplied for lost or damaged "VMM" insignia. Some "VMM" insignia have been found on 1864 battlefields which indicates a fairly good "survival rate." No peculiar Maine type cartridge box shoulder belt plate in lieu of the standard eagle circular plate exists. The eagle type plate was undoubtedly used for this purpose.

A rather rare oval plate bearing the lettering "NHSM" which designates New Hampshire State Militia exists both as a belt plate and as a cartridge box plate. It is not known if these types were actually utilized in Civil War service. It is possible though that some of the early New Hampshire regiments may have utilized them as they are of the common oval pattern so popular during the period. This plate is not known to have ever been found on Civil War battlefields. It is probable that the State of New Hampshire had these insignia made up for complete sets of equipment at some time prior to the Civil War for use with regulation muzzle loading musket equipments.



A belt plate of the large oval "US" size, but bearing the letters "SNY" designating State of New York is one of the most common types of the period. The Confederate soldiers humorously used other "terminology" to interpret the meaning of the "SNY" lettering. One reference to this is found in Captain E. A. Nash's History of the 44th New York Volunteers," p. 42. The "SNY" oval belt plates have the identical dimensions of the regulation oval "US" large style plates. There were apparently three die variations of these plates which differ only in the exact style and type of the letters themselves.

A large number of New York regiments wore the "SNY" belt plates. This fact is verified from the large number found on the Virginia battlefields. Generally, they are to be found on the 1862 and 1863 battlefields but many are known to have been picked up in areas of 1864 combat. It is felt that the majority of the New York "two year" regi-



ments mustered by New York in 1861 were equipped with "SNY" oval belt plates. Some of the early regiments which served either for three years or "for the War" probably account for the 1864 battlefield finds. For instance, it is definitely known that the 100th New York Infantrymen were wearing this device as late as 1864.

It is not believed that the "SNY" oval pattern cartridge box plate was worn during the war. This statement is based upon the fact that no plates of this type have been found on Civil War battlefields. The author has two regulation Civil War cartridge boxes with "SNY" box plates affixed. Apparently, however, they were never utilized in the field. It is believed that the New York troops wore the conventional "US" oval cartridge box plate and the circular eagle shoulder belt plate along with the "SNY" oval belt plate.

The State of New York also provided a twopiece type plate for use with the artilleryman's waist belt. This is of the identical pattern of the two-piece U.S. artillery plate prescribed under the 1841 regulations with the exception that it has the lettering "SNY" in lieu of the "US". These plates were undoubtedly carried into the Federal service by existing New York artillery units at the outbreak of the conflict. The author has one marked with the maker's name, Dingee, of New York.

New York commissioned officers often wore a rectangular belt plate with the letters "NY" appearing in old English style lettering enclosed in a wreath type decoration. A typical speciman is shown in the plate. Such plates have been found on 1864 battlefields which indicates that their use probably continued by individual officers throughout the Civil War. These plates are made of heavy

cast brass with a wreath of German silver applied, or a wreath cast as an integral part of the plate. Strangely enough, this is the only plate specifically described in New York State's Regulations for the Militia for this period.

The interesting volume. Philadelphia in the Civil

The interesting volume, *Philadelphia in the Civil War* by Frank H. Taylor¹⁰ has proven to be an excellent source of data for Civil War insignia worn by Pennsylvania troops during the war.

The Philadelphia Home Guard was organized by the city of Philadelphia for home defense and numbered over 4,000 men by February of 1862. This organization was completely uniformed and equipped and saw active service in the Cumberland Valley and elsewhere during the Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania in September of 1862. A relic of this organization is a regulation sized large oval bearing the lettering "PHG."



A very interesting oval plate bears the Pennsylvania State seal. These plates are of the large oval, regulation size, and are found as both waist belt and box plates. They were designed for use by the Reserve Brigade of Infantry, Pennsylvania Militia. This organization was established in early 1861 at





Philadelphia and was then known as the 1st Regiment, Infantry, Grey Reserves. Its primary purpose was for protection of the city of Philadelphia during emergencies. Regiments from the Reserve Brigade served in opposing the Confederate invasions of both 1862 and 1863.

The Pennsylvania plates just described are exceptions to the general rule for the Pennsylvania Civil War regiments. Nearly all Pennsylvania regiments in the Federal service utilized the regulation "US" ovals and the circular eagle style plates throughout the war.

In the author's earlier article in this publication regarding Confederate State plates, the Maryland oval style belt and box plates were discussed in some detail. These plates are of regulation large oval size and bear the Maryland State seal. Both Federal and Confederate regiments from Maryland used these devices to a limited extent. Several are known to be in battlefield collections but are not common enough to indicate that many Maryland troops actually used them in the field.

The State of Ohio is believed to have been the only other Federal State which used a distinctive style of accoutrement plate. The Ohio plates consist of the regulation sized large oval patterns of both belt and box plates bearing the lettering "OVM." The "OVM" lettering, of course, stands for Ohio Volunteer Militia. A circular style shoulder belt plate bearing the very colorful seal of the State of Ohio is known to exist, but it is very rare and could never have been worn by Ohio troops in any great quantity. The oval cartridge box plates do not appear to be nearly as commonly used as the oval belt plates, although it is definitely known that the former existed. Apparently only the earlier Ohio regiments were equipped



with distinctive Ohio insignia as they are most commonly found on 1861-1863 battlefields.

In addition to the plates mentioned above, a slightly smaller "OVM" belt plate exists. It is not known if there was any particular purpose in this deviation from the standard size oval.

The purpose of this article has been to describe those accourrement plates in general use by Federal troops during the Civil War. No attempt has been made to give a detailed consideration of the many different and colorful regimental insignia worn by individual regiments at the outbreak of the conflict. As mentioned above, it is hoped that this interesting subject can be covered at a later time in an article devoted to that subject.

As a rule, the Federal Civil War soldier was well equipped with the accoutrement plates as provided for in pertinent regulations. These consisted of the regulation oval belt and box plates of the "US" pattern and the circular eagle type shoulder belt plate. These were worn throughout the war. There is evidence that some Federal organizations discontinued wearing the prescribed plates in early 1865. However, this is believed to have been the exception rather than the rule.

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- 'The Ordnance Manual for the Use of the Officers of the United States Army, Washington, 1841.
- ⁵ The Ordnance Manual for the Use of Officers of the United States Army, Washington, 1850.
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- ¹¹ S. O. No. 8, Hqrs., 1st Brig., 3rd Div., Ninth Army Corps, 12 February 1865, directed that cartridge box belts and plates, and cartridge box plates would not be worn by the brigade; National Archives, Record Group 98, U.S. Army Commands, Book 59, p. 207.

OLD BILL: SYMBOL OF THE CAVALRYMAN

by Lieutenant Colonel William Gardner Bell, U.S.A.



Of the many fine artists who turned their talents to portraying the Great American West, Frederic Remington came perhaps closest to being the United States Cavalry's own. The noted artist contributed materially to the enduring historical record of our western frontier, and the Cavalry was a major subject of his pen and brush.

This facet of his work brought Remington signal recognition from the mounted fraternity during the 1890's when the United States Cavalry Association, professional society of the mobile arm and publishers of the famous Cavalry Journal, awarded him a life membership.¹

Several years later, Remington took occasion to

show his appreciation of this honor, and in his gesture lies a story spanning half a century and holding elements of genuine interest for the collector, the historian, the artist, and the soldier.

In 1898 Remington visited the camp of the 3d Cavalry at Tampa, Florida, where the regiment was staging for the Santiago campaign. The artist, on his way to cover the war in Cuba for *Harper's Weekly*, was a close friend of Captain Francis H. Hardie, commanding Troop G of the 3d.²

During the visit, Remington's attention was drawn to one of the troop's noncommissioned officers, Sergeant John Lannen. A superb rider and an imposing figure, Lannen impressed Remington as the eptiome of the cavalryman. With Hardie's approval the artist made several rough sketches of the white-haired, white-mustached NCO in front of the troop commander's tent.

From these roughs Remington later executed a pair of finished drawings which he presented to the Cavalry Association in 1902, at about the time when plans were under way to resume publication of the Cavalry Journal following a two-year interruption brought on by the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection—a period when most of the operating personnel and potential contributing authors were away at the front.³

The principal one of Remington's two drawings portrayed a cavalryman mounted on his horse and with a carbine cradled in his arms. It appeared on the front cover of the *Cavalry Journal* of January 1903, and settled down for a stay of almost forty years. The second sketch, of a cavalryman riding away from the viewer at a gallop, appeared on the back cover and as a tailpiece inside the magazine for many years.

It was the front cover drawing that had feel, character, authenticity. Always a branch of great esprit and highly conscious of history and tradition, the Cavalry took the Remington masterpiece to its heart. Somewhere through the years it picked up the label "Old Bill" and became a sort of symbol, so that, although it was shouldered off the front cover of the Cavalry Journal in mid-1942, and was displaced in turn from the back cover of the successor Armored Cavalry Journal in late 1948, it appears to this day on the masthead page of Armor—continuation magazine of the mounted arm—as a trademark of mobility in war.³

Even while the reproductions of the Remington drawings were settling down in the surroundings

of the oldest Army branch society and journal, the original sketches were slipping from view. When this writer assumed the editorship of Armor in the spring of 1950, a half-century after Remington executed the sketches, the originals were in total obscurity. Careful inquiry among living former editors and Association officials threw no light on their whereabouts. But research in the master file of the Cavalry Journal uncovered a framework of facts on which to hinge an editorial column designed to produce leads to locate the now precious original drawings. The column was highly successful, and some answers lay disconcertingly close to home.

A pair of letters descended upon the editor from two Colonels Scherer, both members of the Armor Association and subscribers to Armor, both sons of Captain L. C. Scherer, editor of the Cavalry Journal from 1902 to 1904, when Frederic Remington presented his sketches. They had the Old Bill original. It had been in the family for almost half a century, having been given by the artist to their father, and used by him in the Cavalry Journal. Captain Scherer had passed the sketch on to his Cavalry sons. It had reposed first with Harris Scherer, who, upon transferring out of the mounted arm, had passed it in turn to his cavalryman brother, Karl Scherer. The precious drawing of Old Bill rests in the latter's possession today. Neither officer has any knowledge of the whereabouts of the companion sketch, that of the cavalryman riding away.7

Interestingly enough, these sketches and the publication that nurtured them are not identified in Harold McCracken's definitive biography of the artist: Frederic Remington—Artist of the Old West. One searches the Bibliographic Checklist of Remingtoniana in vain.8

Thus it appears to be useful to identify the two pieces of work for a wider and more expert audience; to fix the source in which they first appeared; to record the present owner of one of them; and to list as still among the missing yet another original of one of America's great documentary artists.

What of the man who served as model for the twin sketches that Frederic Remington dedicated to the arme blanche? At the time he posed, Sergeant John Lannen was approaching thirty years of service and anticipating retirement. The blue-eyed, ruddy-complected soldier was held in high esteem by his officers as an outstanding noncom-

missioned officer—loyal, a stern disciplinarian, but with unfailing good humor under trying conditions. Hardie pictured him as "a strikingly handsome soldier, a gallant man and a non-commissioned officer of the old-fashioned kind, whose orders were always obeyed." 9

Frederic Remington certainly has captured all of this in Old Bill, and the result is an effective personification of the cavalryman.

Fate was not to grant Sergeant Lannen the opportunity to enjoy a well-deserved retirement, nor would it be his destiny, when his time arrived, to fall gloriously on the field of battle. At the end of a campaign and on the eve of retirement, he succumbed in Cuba, along with many of his comrades, to yellow fever.

But if the manner of the veteran NCO's passing was something less than heroic, he left a legacy in compensation. Everything he represented—a man, a soldier, a service, an era—lives on after him, immortalized in the work of Frederic Remington.

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¹ Journal of the United States Cavalry Association, October 1902, p. 278. Life memberships in the Cavalry Association were discontinued on 17 January 1898 with the adoption of an amended constitution. Those in force were continued, Remington's to his death on 26 December 1909.

² "Editor's Table," Journal of the United States Cavalry Association, January 1911, pp. 798-800. For detailed information on the artist, see Harolá McCracken, Frederic Remington—Artist of the Old West, Philadelphia, 1947.

³ Cavalry Journal, January 1911, op cit. Three spellings of the sergeant's name appear in various accounts over the course of

many years—Lannon, Lannan, and Lannen. The latter form derives from troop records and is probably correct.

'In instances where specific reference to a publication is not made in footnoies, see appropriate issues of Cavalry Journal, Armored Cavalry Journal, and Armor, as identified in the text.

With the passage of the Army Organization Act of 1950, Armor became a continuation of the Cavalry, and the Cavalry Association and Cavalry Journal followed suit, to become the Armor Association and Armor.

⁶ Armor, September-October 1951, pp. 4-5.

'Armor, January-February 1952, p. 3. Brigadier General Harris Scherer retired in 1954. At the time this article was written, Colonel Karl Scherer was serving with the Army in the Boston area.

8 McCracken, op. cit., p. 123 et seq.

^o Cavalry Journal, January 1911, op cit.



FURTHER LIGHT ON THE BEGINNINGS OF GORHAM'S RANGERS 1

by Lieutenant Colonel John R. Elting, U.S.A.

This article supplements the text for MUIA Plate No. 170, "Gorham's Rangers," MC&H, XII, pp. 14-16, in which the author announced that further research was under way to bring a more complete history of Gorham's Rangers to our readers.—Ed.

In 1744, soon after the outbreak of hostilities (King George's War, or The War of the Austrian

Succession), a French force from Louisbourg—accompanied by swarms of Micmac and Malicete

Indians—rapidly overran all of Nova Scotia except for Annapolis Royal, the capital of the province. Annapolis Royal (or Port Royal) had a ruined fort, a garrison of about 100 regulars (apparently one of the orphan Independent Companies), and a hard-bitten commander in the person of Governor Paul Mascarene.

Mascarene called on Governor Shirley of Massachusetts for support; the energetic Shirley promptly responded with a hastily-assembled detachment of approximately 100 men, described as "sorry looking." About three weeks later, another armed convoy brought in Captain John Gorham's "Indian Rangers of the Deep Woods." (In Bates' article the spelling "Gorham" is used throughout.)

A native of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, John Gorham (1709-1751) came from a family which had taken an active and prominent part in every Massachusetts military operation from King Philip's War on, if not earlier. In 1737 (at the age of twenty-seven) he had commanded a brigantine in a trading expedition along the coast of Newfoundland, and shortly thereafter made a voyage to London. On 9 March 1732 he had married his second cousin, Elizabeth Allen, a nineteen-yearold beauty who seems to have been something of an intellectual. Gorham entered the Massachusetts military service in 1741. There is still a large gap in our knowledge of him during 1739-44, before he appears at Annapolis Royal with his fifty-man Company of Indian Rangers of the Deep Woods. The shipmaster had turned frontiersman-a combination of rare effectiveness in Colonial warfare.

If the first Massachusetts' troops to arrive had been unlovely to look at, Gorham's crew frightened the livers out of the noncombatants huddled inside the fort. They were mostly full-blooded, practically naked, Mohawk warriors, with a sprinkling of half-clad half-bree's. Mascarene, pleading lack of proper barracks within the fort, quartered them in the "lower town" outside its ramparts. Here they fortified themselves in a big house, with a cannon emplaced in each of its four walls.

The Ranger's first operation was to get in firewood for the fort. They had arrived practically unarmed, but Mascarene found them muskets, both by purchase from the vessels of the convoy which had brought them and by loan from his regulars. Gorham thereupon embarked in the brigantine for a trip down the harbor, leaving a few of his men on guard in the lower town. One of these hawkeyed Indian warriors promptly went wandering off to look at the scenery and was neatly ambushed just outside the fort by some French Indians. Mascarene immediately ordered his regulars to the rescue, bringing the Mohawk off at the cost of a sergeant killed and a private wounded. (This sort of thing never happens in socially significant modern novels, movies, or TV.)

Soon after, the French raised the siege of Annapolis Royal and fell back on Louisbourg. Gorham now took the offensive with great effectiveness, using two armed sloops (both his own property) to strike at the Indian settlements in the rugged coastal areas which had considered themselves safe from attack.

In January, Gorham was sent back to New England to raise a second company of rangers. There, he was caught up in the preparations for the great attack on Louisbourg; Shirley commissioned him lieutenant-colonel in the 7th Massachusetts Regiments (commanded by his father, Colonel Shubael Gorham) and placed him in charge of the whaleboats which would land the troops. Gorham distinguished himself considerably during the siege, winning Pepperell's approval. He was, however, except for one quick trip in a captured schooner during September 1745, out of touch with Nova Scotia for some eighteen months. His father dying during the epidemic which followed the capture of the fortress, Pepperell promoted John Gorham to the command of the 7th Regiment.

After British troops took over garrison duties at Louisbourg, Gorham returned to his post at Annapolis Royal, bringing with him his twenty-one year old brother, Joseph, already a veteran, who was commissioned a lieutenant in the Rangers. He seems to have likewise brought a party of recruits; French sources in early 1746 give the strength of his Rangers at over 100 men. There is no word as to who commanded the rangers in Gorham's absence, but there is no known complaint as to their conduct. Note that previous accounts which credit this company with service at Louisbourg are in error; it served at Annapolis Royal instead.

Operations throughout 1746-47 in Nova Scotia were touch-and-go, despite the arrival of Massachusetts reinforcements, a large party of which were surprised and overwhelmed at Grand Pre on 31 January 1747.

In April, Gorham was sent to London to present

plans drawn up by Shirley, Mascarene, and others for an offensive to clear the French entirely out of Nova Scotia. He was received politely; he and his wife, who had accompanied him, were presented to King George II; but nothing came of the trip except "that His Majesty had been pleased to grant a commission to Captain Gorham to command a Company of One Hundred men to be employed for the defense of His Majesty's fortress of Annapolis and of the Province of Nova Scotia. ... It is apprehended that the case of this gentleman is so particular and the service he has and may render so great, that no inconvenience can arise from this mark of favour to him." At least, Gorham now held the King's commission, and his company would become a part of the royal forces stationed in Nova Scotia. Shirley and other authorities were charged with helping him recruit it up to its new strength. There is no definite information, but most of the new recruits seem to have been white.

During 1747-1749, Gorham's Rangers (this now being the general title given them) carried the brunt of the defense of Nova Scotia, supported by two armed sloops. Gorham owned both these vessels, the Anson, Capt. John Beare, and the 70ton Warren, Capt. Jonathan Davis. Periodically, units of "Independent Auxiliaries" are mentioned as operating under Gorham's command; apparently these were short-term ranger units, raised either in New England or locally, though available information favors the former. Gorham's tactics were aggressive; operating by water or across country with equal energy, he rapidly extended the perimeter of English authority and cowed the Indian tribes and Acadian settlers. The war had, in theory, ended in 1748; in Nova Scotia this meant merely that the regular troops on both sides seldom intervened in the constant bushwacking.

But in June 1749, a large group of English settlers arrived in Nova Scotia, under the guidance of a new governor, Colonel the Honorable Edward Cornwallis. The Lords of Trade and Plantation in London had finally concluded that the only way to hold Nova Scotia was to settle it with Englishmen.

Cornwallis had been something of a pet of fortune from boyhood, always in the royal favor. A rigid disciplinarian to those under him, he was, in Wolfe's words, "particularly sensitive to reproach" by those above him. He had seen his day of battle at Fontenoy and some service during the Jacobite invasion of '45, but had left the army because of ill health. The choice of this gilded martinet to civilize Nova Scotia was, however, a normal piece of ordinary British eighteenth-century favoritism.

Cornwallis soon established a new city at Halifax, some of Gorham's Rangers assisting in the clearing of the area and the erection of defensive works. He then began negotiations with the French-dominated tribes at the mouth of the St. John River. These war-whoops came in happily, stayed drunk on English rum, accepted presents with both hands, wore war paint while negotiating, and held a war dance on board Cornwallis' flagship by way of a farewell ceremony. No written record survives to show that Cornwallis was warned that he was being most unsubtly insulted; probably all the old Nova Scotia hands tried, only to find that the Honorable Edward considered himself already an expert on the "bloody savages." Hostilities picked up almost at once. Lieutenant Joseph Gorham and a detail, covering a hay-cutting party at Canso, were captured by Indians, but shortly released by the French commander at Louisbourg. Subsequent events were rougher; hair was lifted; and His Majesty's Council for Nova Scotia put a bounty of ten guineas on each Indian prisoner or scalp (raised to fifty pounds sterling in June 1750). A company of "English Rangers" was formed under a Captain William Clapham from volunteers among the settlers. Another volunteer ranger company of unknown origins was raised under a Captain Francis Bartelo, who had pleased the Governor.

Friction rapidly built up between Cornwallis and Gorham. In part, this was inevitable-the priggish governor would naturally resent the wide authority of the provincial. The former protested over the charges for Gorham's sloops, which do not seem to have been unduly high, considering the constant risks they ran. But it was the new governor's tendency to order the Rangers out in any weather, post-haste to the scene of a threeweeks-old raid that appears to have irked Gorham the most. Their differences culminated with Cornwallis threatening (19 December 1749) to put Gorham under arrest for disobedience of orders; denouncing Gorham to all and sundry as "no officer at all," and favoring Bartelo. He even took over the recruiting in New England for Gorham's and Bartelo's companies, which were 130 men short in 1750. (Gorham seems to have been down to some 60 men), sending Lieutenant Alexander Callender—one of the British settlers and an officer in the Nova Scotia militia—to Boston. (See, MC&H, XII, p. 14) Callender was either incompetent or unsuccessful, and could not get twenty recruits during the whole winter.

The governor's sputtering evenually ended in the face of cold facts—Bartelo does not seem to have been able to develop the habit of eating Indians before breakfast; the English Rangers' normal tactics during a raid proved to be that of locking themselves in and blazing away in all directions; and—anyway—Gorham's royal commission made it impossible for Cornwallis to dismiss him. Cornwallis finally combined vengence with utility by merely ordering Gorham further into the wilderness. The result was a considerable brawl (March 1750) along the St. Croix River, in which Gorham -subsequently reinforced by the English Rangers. a company of regulars, and two "wall pieces"defeated a very strong force of French Indians, being himself wounded in the engagement. Cornwallis now sang another tune in his reports.

Elements of Gorham's Rangers (under, it would seem, Lieutenant Joseph Gorham) were involved in the first unsuccessful English thrust further west against Chignecto (April 1750). Gorham personally spearheaded a second amphibious attack in September with his Rangers and armed sloops, backed by Lascelles' regular regiment and elements of Warburton's. The attack was completely successful, though the *Warren* was badly damaged, her captain wounded, three of her crew killed, and several other crewmen and Rangers wounded. (The regulars suffered one staff officer wounded; no losses are recorded aboard the vessels of the Royal Navy present.)

Gorham now went on leave, trying to untangle his personal accounts; in his absence Captain Bartelo (described by Cornwallis as "a good officer, and one I can confide in") handled the three Ranger companies in the field. However, Gorham again took over in early 1751. He also continued active as a member of the Nova Scotia Council, and on 13 June 1751 launched the 10-gun brig Osborne, the first ship ever built at Halifax. Local references to him usually titled him Colonel Gorham. Even the governor seems to have finally concluded that he was a valuable citizen—at least, Cornwallis did christen the Osborne.

In the meantime, the Indian fighting around Chignecto became really rough, with Rangers matching the Micmacs in brutality. On one occasion, eleven Rangers disappeared without a trace; on another, the Rangers brought in 25 scalps, some of which apparently had a blondish cast, for bounty. Eventually, the Rangers got the upper hand. In the late spring or summer of 1751, Cornwallis reduced Bartelo's and Clapham's ranger companies, leaving only Gorham's. Obviously the two former units were never more than temporary units, formed by Governor Cornwallis and paid out of his contingency funds, in contrast to the "Royal" status of Gorham's company.

John Gorham sailed for England during the summer of 1751 on the *Osborne*, loaded with pine masts for the Royal Naval Yard at Portsmouth. Sometime in December he died in London of smallpox. His brother and lieutenant, Joseph Gorham, succeeded him in the captaincy of Gorham's Rangers.

Several facts stand out in a review of the early days of Gorham's Rangers. Made up originally of Indians and half-breeds, the most tricky, dangerous, and unstable type of recruits, it was none-theless an orderly and effective unit. This speaks volumes for Gorham's courage, woodscraft, and personal character. Sir William Johnson made much of his ability (well reinforced by presents) to blarney the Mohawk into cooperation. Gorham made soldiers of them, after the earlier example of Captain Church. Gorham left no known set of tactical instructions; his actions, however, show a style of irregular warfare afterwards employed by Rogers, with constant stress on aggressiveness, surprise, and mobility. Gorham's Rangers appear alternately as skilled woodsmen and as marine commandos; there is nothing in Roger's history like Gorham amphibious assault up the creek and across the beach against Chignecto.

John Gorham's service to Nova Scotia covered a period of only seven years. Yet these were critical years in the history of North America. And through them, Captain John Gorham—with his hair-raising Rangers and the tough crews of his armed sloops—kept Nova Scotia English.

REFERENCE

¹ Based upon information extracted from, George T. Bates, "John Gorham, 1709-1751," which appeared in Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, XXX; made available through the courtesy of Mr. C. Bruce Fergusson, Provincial Archivist.

MILITARY DRESS

Essex Troop (First Squadron Cavalry, National Guard of New Jersey) 1913-1914

Plate No. 177

The original Essex Troop (now, 102nd Armored Cavalry, NJARNG) was organized as the "Essex Troop of Light Cavalry" on 3 June 1890, in Newark, N. J. The plate illustrates the full dress uniforms of the "Troop" some twenty-odd years later. By that time the unit had become a squadron, had increased in prominence as well as in stature, and had gone through several changes in uniforms. A significant event in the period was the designation of the Essex Troop as the Presidential Escort for President Woodrow Wilson's inauguration in 1913. The details of the plate and the following notes pertain to that specific event.

TROOPERS' FULL DRESS UNIFORM.

Busby: Hussar type, short black fur. The bag, of "cavalry yellow," reduced to diminutive form, cut off short and gathered in tight pleats to center of the crown and secured with a button covered with same material. and secured with a button covered with same material. The black worsted pompom set in a parabolic socket covered with woven yellow cord. The front omament enameled concentric ovals of scarlet, blue and white, surrounded by a fluted, convex oval of silver; superimposed in the center, in high relief, the gold (are type similar to drawing) ET foliated cypher under the horsehead crest of the State of New Jersey. The short cords of yellow worsted, braided only in front, secured to each side near the crown with small brass shields and rings. The long cords (called "line cord" in the troop) hooked to a similar brass shield at the crown in the back. The cona similar brass shield at the crown in the back. The conventional arrangement of the long cords was used. The rather long worsted covered aigulettes suspended from the second button of the coat. The chin strap was of gold finish flat double twist links sewed to black leather, fastened to sides of the busby without side buttons. (Side buttons were added in the '20s.)

Full Dress Coat: Dark blue with standing collar of yel-Full Dress Coat: Dark blue with standing collar of yellow, piped in blue. Collar device, the ET cypher worked in silver cord, 1 7/8 inches high. Yellow piping on the two front edges only, to the full length of the coat. Nine gold plated U.S. regulation 7/8 inch convex eagle buttons, spaced equidistantly to the waist. Vent in back to just below the waist line, with two pleats approximately 5 inches apart at the top. A yellow flash set into each pleat; 7/8° buttons at top of pleats and set halfway under the pleats at the bottom of flashes. Shoulder knots, six twists of vellow worsted cord. Sleeve head of vellow worsted of yellow worsted cord. Sleeve braid of yellow worsted with same loop pattern for all enlisted ranks. Chevrons of yellow according to US Army patterns, 3 1/2 inches across, each chevron 5/16 inch wide. Service stripes, 1/2 inch wide set diagonally under and below the top loop of sleeve braid. Yellow stylized spur worm above braid on left sleeve by qualified "Rough Riders." (Troop term for troop-

ers distinguished for horsmanship and mounted gymnastics.)

Breeches: U.S. Army regulation with light blue 1 inch
stripe for all enlisted ranks. Cut without fullness or peg. White "doe-skin" breeches of similar cut worn when pre-scribed, as for "escort duty" or social full dress, dis-

Boots: Black leather, straight leg, full heel, relatively high counter for that period.

Spurs: Brass swan-necks, without rowels, worn low on the boot counter, fastened by studs and buckle with two

piece black leather spur straps.

Saber Belt: Black leather, 1 3/4 inches wide, creased edges, small curved "safe" under sabre hook and front edges, small curved "safe" under sabre hook and front sling attachement on left hip, front sling 10 inches long, fastened by D ring on belt by the hook post and to brass stud. Rear sling, 25 inches long, fastened to belt in rear by leather keeper and D ring. Slings 7/8 inches wide.

Belt Buckle: Brass plate, 2 1/2 inches high, 2 1/4 inches wide, with heavy silver ET cypher superimposed, 1 7/8 x 1 7/8 inches.

Baldric: Black leather sling, 2 1/4 inches wide with brass buckle keeper and tip. Black leather pouch, 6 1/2 inches long, by 4 inches deep, flap bound with brass, conventional suspension rings. Pouch ornament same as that for busby except it was mounted on an eight pointed silver

for busby except it was mounted on an eight pointed silver star instead of the fluted oval. Star measured 2 3/4 inches from point to point. (This star and cypher device was used on the busby in the 20's and is shown in detail in the

Forage Cap: Dark blue, piped yellow along top seams only. Yellow corded rosette in the front at the peak, two 3/8 inch brass bell buttons fastened the lower flaps in front. Silver, 7/8 inch ET cypher worn on left side, 2 1/2 inches from front edge.

Dress Cape: Dark blue, black velvet collar, black silk and mohair frogged loop and toggle fastener, yellow lin-ing. Cape extended to boot tops. (For social and other occasions when troopers appeared in full dress without arms, the long cords were worn as with the busby, but the upper ends were looped and hooked to the same button as the aigulettes. The baldric and saber belt were also worn

and the saber slings hooked together).

Gloves: White buckskin gauntlets for mounted duty; white short gloves for dismounted or off duty wear, with

full dress.

Cap: US Army cavalry officers' dress cap of the period. Dark blue crown, yellow silk band bordered with gold braid. Gold chin strap and gilt side buttons, black visor; gold embroidered US Coat of Arms, 3 inches wide, 2 3/4 inches high. (Troop officers did not wear the busby.) Full Dress Coat: Similar to troopers coat except for the shoulder knots and sleeve braid. Shoulder knots, gold bullion, six twists, rank insignia worn on center of each knot (Para. 6, G.O. 25, Office of the AG. State of New Jersey, 6 June 1911.) Sleeve braid of gold with double loop laced borders (Photographs indicate additional loops and lace added to base for field officers.)

Breeches: US Army regulation, light blue with 1 1/2 inch yellow stripes. Tight white doe-skin breeches worn when perscribed.

when perscribed.

Boots: Conventional black riding boots of the period. (Photographs indicate some officers were boots with softer legs than those wom by troopers.)

Source legs than those wom by troopers.)

Spurs: Nickled swan-necks with small rowels.

Saber Belt: Gold bullion on morocco leather, 1 3/4 inches wide. Small black morocco "safe" under saber hook and sling suspension. Slings and hook suspended from flat snap fastner and D ring. Front sling, 10 inches long; rear sling 15 inches long. Slings 7/8 inches wide, lower ends buckled to gold plated swivel snaps on black

morocco billets. US Army regulation officers' eagle belt

buckle, gold plated with silver wreath.

Baldric: Sling of gold bullion like saber belt, but 2 1/4 inches wide. Gold plated buckle, keeper and tip. Pouch same as for troopers.

Gloves: White gauntlets worn by officers with dress coat, (US Army officers' blue dress coat trimmed with black mohair braid) but not usually worn with full dress coat described above when short white gloves were worn.

ARMS FOR FULL DRESS

Only the sabers were carried for full dress formations. Trooper: US Army Light Cavalry 1860 saber with brass guards. Heavy black leather sword knot.

Officers: US Army M 1902 saber with regulation gold saber knot. (Photographs indicate that some officers used sabers of non-regulation pattern, such as that with pierced steel guard, listed as No. 33 in Peterson).

The troop guidon at this time was the conventional design (red above white) but was larger than the standard size, measuring 28 inches on the lance and 39 inches on the fly, with the numeral 1 above and the letters N.J. below. Horse Furnishings

Soddle: All ranks rode the US Army M 1904 McClellan. Officers used steel Artillery type stirrups instead of the standard hooded stirrups used by the troopers. (Extroopers of the period agree that all the leather of the horse equipment was dark brown even though the War Department had made black leather equipment available to the exercised milities in [011]

saddle cloth, edged with brown leather binding - a large silver numeral 8 on the skirt. Officers used a dark blue saddle cloth edged with yellow binding; a large silver

ET cypher on the skirt. (The "service saddle cloth" mentioned in the Troop records refers to the OD canvas cloth, bound with brown leather with bronze numeral or device

Breast Plate: Large brass heart with coat of arms of the State of New Jersey, superimposed. (At the time that the undersigned was a "trooper" there were several heart there were several heart shaped breast plates with the large ET cypher in the Armory saddle room. These could have been from an earlier period as the photographs of the Troop in Washington,

1913, show the State arms.

Bridle: Altho some latitude was permitted officers in the type of bridles and bits used, all troopers used the US Army regulation cavalry bridle of the period, without ornamental brow band or rosettes, and without halter or caves-son nose band for full dress formations. The bit used was the US M 1892 cavalry curb with S branches, fre-quently supplemented by a bridoon for those troopers' mounts which "handled better" on the double reins.

Specific mention must be made of the outstanding research provided by member, W. T. Landrey, Jr., Lt. Col., USA, at present Army Advisor to the 102nd Armored Cavalry. It has rarely been my privilege to work from such a completely detailed and authenticated volume of research material as was furnished for this subject.

Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr.

1. Notes, photographs and references - Lt. Col. W. T. Landry, Jr.

Notes, photographs and references — Lt. Col. W. T. Landry, Jr. 2. "History of the Essex Troop" — Newark, N.J., 1925.
 "Essex Troop, Personal Escort to President Wilson, at inauguration," Washington, D.C. Falk photo, Boston, Mass.
 "The President's Four in hand at the Capitol" — Photo showing closeup of Essex Troopers escorting the President's carriage during the 1913 inauguration.) Source unknown.



The ESSEX Troop color party today wears a modification of the uniform in the plate. See page 91.

It is not generally known that the Mexican revolutionary troops, known as Villistas or followers of Francisco Villa, grew out of a unit formed on U.S. soil between Nogales and El Paso. In 1912, "Pancho" Villa, who had joined Francisco Madero in a successful revolt against President Diaz in 1910, was serving as colonel of government irregulars under the command of Victoriano Huerta. On the eve of the battle of Rellano in May, he was promoted to "Honorary General" with the rank of Brigadier, in command of 300 men. Audacious, often brilliant, but also undisciplined and violent, as might be expected of a man who had made a career of banditry and cattle rustling, Villa aroused Huerta's suspicions and was sentenced to death for insubordination. He was saved from the firing squad at the last moment by the intervention of President Madero and confined to a military prison. Villa escaped on Christmas Day, 1912 and crossed into the United States at Nogales, Arizona on 2 January 1913. Here he was joined by nine of his former command, and with them, returned to Mexico on March 23 1913. In the short time between January and March, while safe behind the U.S. border, he had laid the groundwork for what was later to become the Division of the North, popularly known and feared, as the Villistas.

After their return from the United States, Villa and his nine followers raised volunteers in the northern Mexican states to oppose General Huerta, who had deposed Madero and seized executive power. Within a few months, the handful of men under Villa, had grown to a force of 18,000 combattants, two-thirds of them cavalry. These forces inflicted disastrous defeats on the armies of Huerta at Comez Palacio, Torreon and Tierra Blanca. From then on, until the force was dispersed by General Obregon at Celaya in 1915, the Villiasta formed the most daring and picturesque division of the armies of the Mexican Revo-

lution. 2

The troops of Villa considered themselves armed citizenry and never wore any formal uniforms or insignia, yet their dress had striking characteristics that set them apart from all other divisions. Occasionally, some officer or sergeant pinned army stripes of rank around his cuffs, such as the mounted officer in this case who wears the insignia of a cavalry captain, 3 strips of silver lace over a bright red cloth background. Their most popular headgear was the broad-brimmed sombrero jarano, a tan or dark grey felt hat with conical crown, or the narrow-brimmed black, grey or olive drab sombrero tejano similar to the U.S. overseas hat of WWI. A brown or tan ranch jacket or vest was worn over a white, olive drab or golden-yellow shirt with a white or red neckerchief.

Grey or brown riding pants were often covered with heavily buckled full-length brown leather chaps, or leggings reaching to the thigh. Mexican style ranch saddles were of natural russet leather. The laced stirrup hood, estribo con tapadera y amarres, is still used by Mexican ranchers and cowmen and was popular with mounted revolutionaries.

The principal weapon in Villa's forces was the standard Mexican 7 mm Mauser army rifle or carbine, supplemented by revolvers in Western style holsters. A variety of models of the Mauser rifle were in use in Mexico in 1913; the Mexican Mondragon, the Belgian, Spanish and other styles designed between 1894 and 1903, different shapes and sizes but all based on the Spanish 1893 model Mauser. They varied considerably from the original German design but all had as their

common features, 7 mm caliber.

One to four cartridge bandoleers strapped across chest or waist became the trade mark of Villa's and other revolutionary troops. Belts with 8 to 10 pockets for 5-cartridge clips alternated with those having double or single loops for individual cartridges. In 1903, in an attempt to improve army equipment, Mexican regular cavalry received bandoleers with 8 buttoned pockets for cartridge clips, while the Rurales and customs guards were issued bandoleers with loops. This government stock was captured by the rebels. When the demand for equipment grew with the revolution, large numbers of loop bandoleers were produced by local leather workers. The 30-round folded cartridge cases were a discarded army model scomed by the rebels as well, who preferred the 40 to 50 round, chest and waist, bandoleers.

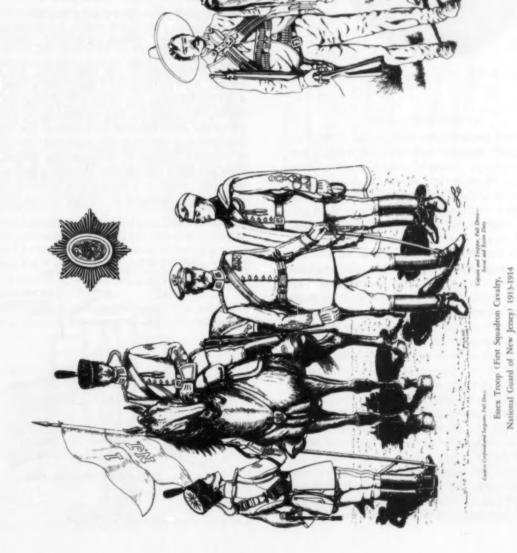
The troops were divided into brigades named after historical personalities such as Cuauhtemoc, Morelos, Juarez, Zaragoza and, of course, Villa. The early Villistas moved rapidly on horseback or in captured trains, relying on surprise attacks, ambushes and feints, but also putting up desperate sustained battles when necessary. Written reports on their dress and equipment are scant, but eyewitnesses and photographs still exist to show clearly their types, dress and general appearance. The figures in this plate are reconstructed from photographs of Villa and his followers shortly after they re-entered Mexico from the United States in 1913.

J. HEFTER

G. Casasola: "Historia Grafica de la Revolucion 1900-1940," Mexico 1940; Cuademos, 4, 5 and 6, pges. 451, 525, 653.
 Photographs in the possession of the Mexican Legion of Honor at the Defense Ministry, Mexico, D.F.



Personal notes by Luis Aguirre Benavides, Villa's private secretary.



Villistas, 1913

COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK



LAND MINE-1865

It has long been known that in the Civil War, among other "modern" innovations of warfare, land mines were used in certain areas by the Confederate Army. These devices were known at the time as "torpedoes," "sub-terra torpedoes," and "sensitive shells." Nothing definitive seems to have survived in print on the construction of these devices, and the recent recovery of five of them, on a Southern battlefield, is to be considered a fortuitous circumstance, inasmuch as previously nothing was known of the method of fusing. It had been apparent, however, that common artillery shells had been utilized for the body of the devices.

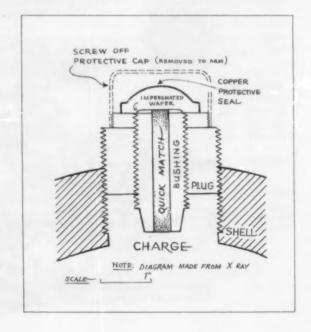
The five recovered specimens were: three 24-pounder spherical shells; one 32-pounder spherical shell; and one 10-inch mortar shell. The illustration is one of the 24-pounders.

The fuses are the identical type, chemical in nature, used by the Confederate States Naval Torpedo Bureau as the fusing in various naval torpedoes. This fuse, designed by Brigadier General Gabriel J. Rains, P.A.C.S., was intended to be ignited upon contact or pressure. It was an extremely sensitive device and far from a foolproof one. A contemporary account frequently mentions the explosions of these mines from stray musket balls. As they were buried just deep enough to be

hidden, a "near miss" must have been sufficient to detonate them.

The chemical composition in this device, ascertained from a technical study of Confederate torpedoes and related devices, was as follows: chorate of potassa—50%; sulpheret of antimony—30%; and pulverized glass—20%. The fuse was activated by the crushing downward of the very thin metal foil protective cap by the weight of a man stepping upon it. The mines were laid with a small piece of board resting on the foil. Upon pressure the board crushed the foil down onto the chemical composition, which was placed on a wooden disc over the quick match. This caused the composition to detonate, igniting the quick match, a composition of gunpowder that had been disolved in alcohol, and exploding the shell.

The mechanism of the fuse device was quite simple. A large threaded fitting, which contained a center bushing, was fitted into altered artillery shells. The center bushing screwed up or down to adjust the space between the chemical disc and the foil, and as a consequence regulated the amount of pressure needed to detonate the device. The shell was filled with powder through a hole on the side and closed by a plug which is visible in the photograph. Apparently the use of some sort of



special wrench, to be employed through the filler hole to adjust the center bushing, was required. All parts of the fuse and adapter are of cupric metal, probably copper, as was usual in the Confederate service.

It is interesting to note that despite nearly 100 years of burial, the powder in all five of these shells was found to be in perfect condition and quite "hot." Fortunately, the chemicals of the fuse discs had deteriorated, although the quick match was still good. Any explosive projectile or device, regardless of age, if still loaded, should not be tampered with, or exposed to intense heat, until unloaded or deactivated by an expert.

Sydney C. Kerksis

NOTES ON EARLY A.E.F. DRESS

In connection with the interesting view of the historic uniforms displayed by the 3d Infantry and reproduced in the MC&H, XI, p. 92, I note that the accompanying text calls attention to "errors in cut, trim and insignia." I hope this comment extends to the blouse worn by the enlisted man who portrays World War I, and to the absence of a gas mask.

Shortage of clothing plagued the World War I A.E.F., in its early days. A uniform often seen was a ragged blouse, blue denim fatigue trousers, an ill-fitting cap, and much-worn shoes.

According to General Harbord, the War Department could not supply front line troops because it needed the clothing for training camps at home. The nondescript American uniforms greatly amused the French. An example has been traced from a sketch made just back of the lines in the Toul sector, April 1918.

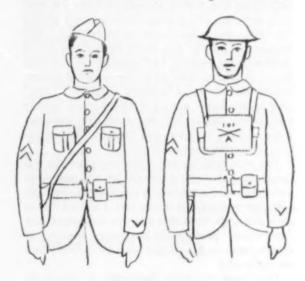
The soldier would not be wearing a helmet if he was beyond the range of ordinary shell fire.



The back-area gas mask prescribed at the time was the French mask. Slung over the left shoulder and hanging on the man's right side, it would not show in the sketch.

The clothing shortage was temporarily relieved by the wholesale purchase of British "tunics," which were issued to the troops, brass buttons and all. An enlisted man was permitted to replace the Lion and Unicorn with the American eagle if (a) he could sew and (b) could obtain a needle and thread.

Shown here are regulation uniforms drawn in June 1918 and traced from the original sketches.



The left sketch shows the prescribed uniform for rear area duty. It was comprised of an overseas cap, British blouse, and a French gas mask.

The right sketch shows the uniform of a corporal at a gun position. Helmeted and armed with a Colt .45, he wears a British "box respirator" in the "alert" position. In conformity with A.E.F. orders, chevrons of rank were worn on the right sleeve only. The chevron on the left sleeve is a service stripe denoting completion of six months' service overseas. The alleged reason for removing chevrons from the left sleeve was the fear that the addition of service stripes would overload the sleeve with badges. Wound stripes, awarded under a complicated rule, were placed, point down, on the right cuff. There was no apparent fear that a non-com's right arm would also be overloaded.

Southworth Lancaster

COMMENTS ON THE BRITISH 9 PDR. MODEL (MC&H, XI, pp. 115-116)

On going over the Winter 1959 issue I noticed the item in the Collector's Field Book by Ray Riling, and as some of the remarks seemed to be unusual, I went chasing through the reference books available at the Virginia Military Institute dealing with the English 9 pdr. I hope that the comparative notes which follow may be interesting to Artillery buffs.

As to the 9 pdr, according to the two works which seem best able to deal with it, it was only one of a range of field pieces with which the English Army was armed, though perhaps the most common one. The United States practice during the 1840's was to have three batteries of 6's to one battery of 12's. The Artillerist's Manual and British Soldier's Compendium, by Captain F. A. Griffiths, Royal Artillery, 1840, gives full tables of Organization for batteries of "medium 12 pdrs," "9 pdrs," and "6 pdr light" among the guns (each battery to have one mortar and five guns), but there appears to have been no ratio fixed for the proportion of the different calibers.

The item which particularly intrigued me was the remark that the 9 pdr model was equipped with "the wheel regulator;" I am unable to find any such fitting described in any text. I should like to see a drawing. Note that this was concerned with "deflection," presumably horizontal, training. It may be that such a gadget was the 'raison d'etre for the model.

The "high trunnion bearings" of which he speaks cannot be understood from the photograph. Are the cheeks of the carriage especially high, or does he refer to the fact that the trunnions were so made that their axis was on the *line of the bottom of the bore?* (This was the case with *all* English pieces of the 1840's and earlier. I am still trying to find any actual gun which represents the full adoption of Muller's theories of 1757.)

Is it possible that the "Fuse Cutter," listed as being on the trail, is actually the "portfire clipper" shown in the drawing given in the Manual?

Stowage of the "rammer and sponge" is different from the US practice, possibly due to the fact that the strap, or flat chain, designed to hold these implements has come unfastened. (It hangs under the "trail.")

English artillery wheels of the period had 12 spokes as shown, against 14 spokes for the American carriages.

The US *field* pieces did not use a "shoe" for braking with the lock chain, and no mention is found in the *Manual* of its use.

Apparently portfires were actually used to discharge the pieces in either service on land, though "slow matches" were used in the navies. Portfires were normally 16 inches long and burned for 14 to 16 minutes, slow match burned at the rate of eight hours per yard! Apparently the "match" was kept burning to light the portfires which were used when the battery was in action. The plates on the brackets were called "Linstock plates" in the US service, and slow match was wrapped around the linstock.

While the American 12 pdr had "handles" or "dolphins," the 6 pdr did not. In the British service the 12, the heavy 6, and the 9 all had handles. (Not on the model gun.)

The two rivets through each felloe, or fellie, of the wheel, were not used in the American guns apparently.

English ammunition boxes for the limber are shown in the *Manual* as being *two* small ones, with a space in the center the width of the lunette, US boxes were one long chest. Top of the model boxes appear to be covered in cushioned material, though this may be deceptive. American ammunition chests were covered with sheet copper, held in place with 216 nails! (US Ordnance Manual, 1841)

While the English carriages of this period apparently had the cheeks tightly fitted to the stock, or trail, the American carriages had the cheeks held away from the trail by "rondelles" of iron. This latter arrangement would apparently allow better drainage and prevent rot if the carriages were exposed to rainy weather.

The photograph does not show it, though it is referred to in the article, but while American guns did not have "axle boxes," their English counterparts did. One is shown in the *Manual*, as being fitted to the 9 pdr and to the 12 pdr, though two are shown for the "light 6."

Due to the special brass fork made to hold up the shafts for the horse as shown in the photograph, the folding props under the shafts are not used. They can be readily seen in the photograph. The US system used a tongue on the limber instead of the rather peculiar shaft arrangement. The Manual gives the movements for, "Shifting shafts from single to double draught" and possibly such an arrangement was considered valuable for passing

defiles though the wheel tread would be normally as wide as two horses.

It is my own guess that the use of the English 9 pdr by the Confederate forces must have been very limited, if any, for such a piece is not listed in the manual of 1863, which does list the Parrott and 3" and 4.5 rifles as well as he Whitworth and the 2.25 "CSA bronze mountain rifle," the last two of which must have been quite limited in use. I would be interested in knowing whether the 1862 stores manual mentioned was a copy of the corresponding USA manual (as was often the case) and whether the 9 pdr also appears in the USA volume. Such a stores listing of an early date showed a 24 pdr Columbiad, which was never an article of regular issue and had been long discontinued in the service. It is certainly not impossible that such pieces were used, but the guns weighed almost twice the US 6's, and only slightly less than the "heavy 12's." The 9 weighed 1512 lbs., US 6-884, and the heavy 12 (so-called after the adoption of the "light 12"-Napoleon-in 1857) 1800 lbs. The "light 12" of 1857 weighed 1230 lbs., and the 9's may have been rebored or melted down and made into Napoleons.

Cary S. Tucker

REFERENCE

¹ Unfortunately the following correction from the author was inadvertently omitted from the text, "... this wheel cannot be seen in the photo since it is on the right cheek of the carriage." Ed.

QUERY: HAY'S REGIMENT, TEXAS MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS (MC&H, XI, p. 112)

General Cadmus M. Wilcox's History of the Mexican War (Washington, 1892) included an appendix giving the American order of battle by states. Under "Texas Volunteers" the following separate and distinct units commanded by Colonel John C. Hays are listed:

First Regiment of Texas Mounted Rifle Volunteers
Lieutenant Colonel Samuel H. Walker
Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers
Lieutenant Colonel Peter H. Bell
Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers
Lieutenant Colonel Charles A. Harper

In addition, there is listed a Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers commanded by Colonel Peter H. Bell. Further there are listed the following:

> Second Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers Colonel George T. Wood Regiment of Texas Rifle Volunteers Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston Regiment of Texas Mounted Volunteers Colonel William C. Young

Were the first three regiments above listed one and the same with different lieutenant colonels at various times? Were all three different regiments raised by the same man? Did Peter H. Bell take command of one of the three or did he raise his own regiment, the fourth listed above? At best Wilcox appears confusing and ambiguous. Can any unconfused COMPANY Member sort this out?

Colonel Brooke Nihart, USMC

PISTOL CARTRIDGE POUCH M1874

The pistol cartridge pouch pictured here appears to be of such rarity that it may be the only surviving specimen. Designed to be part of the cavalry equipment outfit of 1874, it may have never been manufactured to any great degree since an immense number of cap pouches of Civil War manufacture were available for simple modification to the purpose of carrying pistol ammunition and apparently this was done.

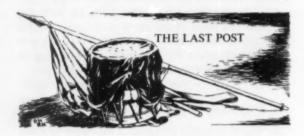
This specimen bears a paper tag with the date May 9, 1874 in an oval surrounded by "No. 2311 Received Ordnance Office," and a fragmentary pasted label imprinted "Adopted by Cavalry Board." It was collected by Member Chester J. Yatcak and through his courtesy it was loaned me for photographing.

James S. Hutchins

Ordnance Memoranda No. 18 (1874).



GAZETTE



Lieutenant Colonel Norman de F. Douglass, USAR, Retired Greenwich, Connecticut

> Colonel Donald A. Heath, USAR Medfield, Massachusetts

Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr., USA, Retired
San Antonio, Texas
Charter Member, Governor, Fellow, Past-President

SALUTE

Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr., Artillery, U.S. Army 1902-1960

Guns in the halls of Fort Sill, legacy for artillerymen, salute him mutely.

Caissons stand silent, yet still heard are the echoes of their rolling to the refrain he loved so well.

The red guidon he followed faithfully dips, honoring him.

Deepest tribute is his bright place in the memories of comrades-in-arms, companions, and many who knew him only through his friendly pen—all of us to whom he gave so much of his heart and lore.

Once again let the shining words be spoken for a good soldier. "And he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

Surely Rodney, the wheel horse, and others in their high pasture whinnied a greeting to him who portrayed them so well.

A tankard brimmed in Valhalla's mess for one who proudly wore the crossed cannon.

She whose image he designed for a chapel's stained glass window beckoned with her peacock feather. Saint Barbara, patron of gunners, welcomed her true disciple.

Fairfax Downey

COLONEL HARRY C. LARTER, JR.

Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr., U.S. Army, Retired, COMPANY Governor since the society's inception, Fellow, President from 1952 to 1956, Charter Member, Journal author, and plate artist, passed away at San Antonio, Texas, on 16 August. Colonel Larter had been ailing for several years. His death came at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio during surgery which was performed following a rupture of the aorta.

Graveside services were held on the morning of 19 August at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Lieutenant General E. T. Williams, commanding the Fourth U.S. Army at Fort Sam Houston, Harry's wartime chief, had taken personal charge of the funeral arrangements. In addition to family members and many friends, General Williams attended with senior members of his staff. Fort Sill was represented by its Commanding General accompanied by members of his staff. THE COMPANY was represented by Members Gillett Griswold, Director of The U.S. Army Artillery Museum at Fort Sill, Colonel Everett C. Williams, Retired, and Major Bob Souther, Retired, wartime S-3 of the 8th Tank Destroyer Group which Colonel Larter commanded during World War II. While it was requested that individual friends not send flowers, THE COMPANY did send a spray of scarlet roses, the color of Harry's beloved artillery arm, with ribbons of THE COMPANY colors. Mrs. Larter and the family have requested that any memorial contributions be made to The Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr. Memorial Fund at The Museum at Fort Sill.

A native of New Jersey, Harry Larter served in the famed Essex Troop, New Jersey National Guard before he entered the U. S. Military Academy from which he was graduated in 1925. His pre-war experience included command and staff duty and experience with both Reserve and National Guard, as well as Regular units. He thought and lived the one Army concept a quarter-century before today's Pentagon planners conceived the term. During World War II, he commanded the 8th Tank Destroyer Group throughout its existence: he trained it in Texas, took it overseas, led it through four European campaigns (Northern

France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe), and brought it back to the U.S. in 1945. For his exploits and gallantry in combat he was awarded The Legion of Merit, The Silver Star, and The Bronze Star. Upon the occasion of his retirement from the Army in 1950 The Chief of Staff of The U.S. Army, General J. Lawton Collins, wrote to him of his wartime career with the 8th TD Group:

"Your aggressive leadership and keen understanding of the tactical employment of the tank destroyer contributed immeasurably to the successful campaigns in Europe. Your achievements near Magny, France and your gallant action near Metz will live forever in our military annals. I know it must have been a source of great satisfaction to you to train this unit and to command it so successfully in combat."

How many were the debts of gratitude owed this amazing man! The Military Academy to which he was ever a credit; The United States Army which he loved and served so loyally and to which he contributed a mind rare in its ability to eagerly and enthusiastically grasp the new while courageously retaining what was best of the old and traditional; The U.S. Army Artillery, in which he served faithfully and gallantly from the days of his beloved horses to the roaring steel monsters of a later day; the Army posts throughout the world where his colorful paintings hang to inspire the soldiers of today and tomorrow; Fort Ticonderoga, to which he gave freely of his time, imagination, and artistic skill; The Artillery Museum at Fort Sill, which he founded and in which he spent a visit of eight full backbreaking workdays less than a month before his death.

Certainly not the least of those institutions indebted to Harry Larter is our own Company. His contributions are too numerous, too continuous, too involved, to permit enumeration. The journal and plates are rich with his editorial creations. The official minutes, from the first and through many still to come, reflect his leadership and guidance. His personal correspondence with his fellow Governors, Officers, and Members was staggering. The Company government was continually enriched and inspired by his counsel.

Great too are the debts owed by individuals to the warm and generous man who so loved to refer to himself as "Old Horse"—his seniors who placed confidence and trust in him with such rich returns; his contemporaries who liked, admired, and respected him; his juniors who loved and worshiped him.

No man ever more believed in, and lived by,

his officer's oath and the Duty, Honor, Country of his alma mater than did Harry Larter; no warrior was ever more proud of the uniform he wore and the principles for which it stood; no man ever gave more of himself to his ideals, his Nation, his family, and his friends.

Charles West

CORRECTION

In the text accompanying Plate No. 173, The Chicago Black Horse Troop, 1929-1940 (MC&H, XII, p. 42) the statement is made: "The Adjutant General's Office, Illinois National Guard, was very helpful, but had little information on uniforms. The Chicago Historical Society had little moreand charged a stiff price for that." Mr. Paul M. Angle, Secretary and Director of the Society, has informed us that the statement is misleading, and it certainly contains a value judgment that might better have been omitted. The staff of the Society spent some 20 hours of research time to turn up what it did, and nothing was charged for the information supplied. A charge of \$2.00 apiece for several 8 x 10 glossy photographs was made, a sum quite in keeping with today's prices and well below the commercial rate for such work. We regret the wrong impression that was given, and thank the several members who were quick to record their own very satisfactory experiences in dealing with the Chicago Historical Society, particularly in the area of assistance to research.

COPIES OF OUT-OF-PRINT ISSUES OF MC&H

Microfilm copies of the MC&H are now available through the University Microfilms, Inc., 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan. The price of the first eleven volumes of the journal is \$12.00. Individual volumes are \$2.50 each. In addition to the microfilmed copies, Xerographic copies of the journal are offered at \$3.00 for Vol. I, \$4.00 for Vol. II, \$5.75 for Vol. III, \$6.25 for Vol. IV, \$6.75 for Vols. V-VI, \$8.75 for Vols. VII-X, and \$9.00 for Vol. XI. Separate issues are available at \$3.00 each. The Company receives a modest royalty on all sales. Those interested in taking advantage of this opportunity to fill in out-of-print issues should contact the firm direct.

RESTORATION OF FORT LOWELL, ARIZONA

The Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society is currently engaged in a project to restore old Fort Lowell near Tucson, Arizona. Plans are to restore three of the seven original officers quarters, the hospital, and two barracks. The University of Arizona and the Arizona State Museum archaeologists are already at work performing the necessary digging to prepare plans of the post and to recover artifacts to be used in the Fort Lowell Museum. Company Member Ray Brandes, historian for the Society, writes, " . . . we will welcome any support either through the loan of documents or photographs or in any way possible." Those interested should contact the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, 949 East Second Street, Tucson, Arizona.

MATERIAL WANTED FOR 1st ARMORED DIVISION UNIT MUSEUMS

Units of the 1st Armored Division, Combat Command "A," Fort Hood, Texas, are endeavoring to reconstruct their unit museums and trophy rooms. Due to the dismantling of such rooms at the time of World War II, the packing and putting into storage of the unit possessions at that time, and the subsequent reorganization of the units after the war, it is believed that not all of the trophies. historical items, and other materials of collector value, which may be available, have been found or recovered. Undoubtedly, in dens, attics, and trunks, and in collections throughout the country. are actual trophies, photographs, diaries, and historical items concerned with the history of the units of the 1st Armored Division. These units are: 6th Infantry, 1st Cavalry, 6th Artillery, 12th Cavalry, 13th Cavalry, 73rd Artillery, 1st Armored Division, and the 1st Armd Div CC "A." As no funds are available for the collecting of these items, it would be greatly appreciated if individuals would send donations at their own expense. They would be treasured by the units so honored and would serve to link our present day soldiers with their predecessors of the past. Donations should be sent to Brigadier General Roland H. del Mar. Headquarters Combat Command "A," 1st Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE THE AMERICAN RIFLES

The American Rifles, oldest existing unit in the Delaware Army National Guard, has recently adopted a distinctive uniform that is a replica of the one it wore when it was first organized in Wilmington as the first company of Haslet's Delaware Continental Regiment.

Today the unit is Headquarters & Headquarters Battery, 1st Gun Battalion (90 mm)/198th Artillery, but it has "adopted" the entire battalion. Through World War II, the rifles were a company-size unit—for many years Company A, 1st Delaware Infantry, later Battery D, 198th Coast Artillery. Since the Rifles' postwar reorganization as a battalion headquarters battery, all members of the battalion, including those in other units from Wilmington and nearby communities assigned to it in the reorganization, have been considered members.

The last distinctive uniform worn by the unit, adopted in 1929, had not been worn since the mid-1930's. It followed a late nineteenth century pattern, and was not considered sufficiently characteristic of the Rifles' traditions to be readopted.

The recently uniformed ceremonial detachment comprises five officers and 70 enlisted men, most of the latter veteran non-coms of the outfit. It has figured prominently in a number of military, civic, and historic events throughout the state during the past year. The organization and uniforming of the ceremonial detachment has received the active encouragement of Delaware's Adjutant General, Major General Joseph J. Scannell, himself a former member of the unit that is now Battery D of the Battalion.

The replica Continental uniform differs in two major respects from the usual representation of the Delaware uniform, as portrayed in Lefferts Uniforms of the American Revolution. First, the jacket is light blue, close to infantry blue, as in the Delaware state flag. This is in recognition of the state tradition that the colors in the flag—light blue and buff—were copied from the predominent colors in the uniforms of the Delaware Continentals. Second, the jacket is lined with white, rather than with the red used for the facings. This choice is based on an original drawing prepared by Lefferts for the well-known Delaware artist Stanley M. Arthurs, showing a white lining as well as a number of other details not apparent in his more



Delaware Army National Guard Photo

familiar painting. The drawing, now in the possession of Harry W. Barker of Wilmington, a former member of the American Rifles, was followed by Arthurs in his "Troops leaving Dover Green," which was commissioned by the State and now hangs in Legislative Hall, Dover. The light blue coat with white lining also receives support from the fact that it was prescribed late in 1775 for Delaware volunteer units (from which Haslet's regiment was largely drawn), and in other respects save for color differences in the facings of the various volunteer regiments, the volunteer uniform is similar to that of Haslet's regiment.

The distinctive uniform is not a dress uniform, being worn only for ceremonial occasions when the unit is in formation. At such times reconstructed flintlock muskets are carried. For dress and semi-dress, the appropriate current Army uniforms are worn.

The incongruity between the unit's traditional arms and its name results from the name having been adopted rather late in the unit's career—in 1875, when the unit was supplied with rifles. Previously, it had been known by its commanders' names (Capt. Robert Kirkwood in the Revolution, Maj. (later Governor) Caleb Prew Bennett in the War of 1812) or by its military designation in the militia or volunteer forces.

Following a long-standing tradition in Delaware volunteer units, the American Rifles have separate military and civil officers. The military officers are

the regularly appointed National Guard officers assigned to the battalion under appropriate State and Federal regulations. The present commander is Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence F. Hayes, Jr. The civil officers, elected annually by the membership, are a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, who handle the non-military affairs of the organization. President (and immediate past commander) is Lieutenant Colonel James G. Maloney, whose interest and enthusiasm while serving as battalion commander led to the recent adoption of the traditional uniforms and formation of the ceremonial detachment. Other civil officers are First Sergeant Edward P. Lowery, Battery B, vice president; First Lieutenant Donn Devine, Battery A, secretary; and Master Sergeant Curtis G. Lord, Headquarters, treasurer.

Though still recruited from Wilmington and vicinity, The American Rifles are now located at the New Castle County Airport, in the suburbs several miles from Wilmington. Headquarters is in Building 710, New Castle County Airport, New Castle, Delaware.

Donn Devine

ESSEX TROOP

MUIA Plate No. 177, in this issue, depicts the uniform of an organization which is youthful by comparison with many of its associates in the National Guard, yet whose name has become, during its lifetime, one of the best known in our

"mounted" service, an organization whose name is synonymous with panache and spirit, and evocative of memories of pounding hoofs, the gleam of bit, spur, and polished brass, the click of poloball and mallet, and of the yelling stretched-out final gallop past the reviewing stand.

Although troops of horse bearing similar designations to that of the present day "Essex Troop" had existed in Essex County, New Jersey from 1756 until shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War, the official history of the present day unit commences in 1890 with the organization of the Essex Troop of Light Cavalry in Newark. Its first captain and original mentor was Colonel James E. Fleming, a former Union cavalry officer with a distinguished Civil War record. Indicative of the sort of man the captain was, and incidentally of the type of man he wanted in his unit, is the statement by one who knew him that he "thought nothing of ordering a charge in a riding hall which measured only 75 by 175 feet, everyone bringing up with a bang at the far wall." The training offered under Captain Fleming, and the inclusion in the ranks of many young men prominent in local affairs soon established for the troop a reputation as a first class unit. The troop was "Independent" until 1893 when it was mustered into the New Jersey National Guard as Cavalry Company A (Essex Troop). It was subsequently, in 1894, redesignated as 1st Troop, National Guard of New Jersey, but remained generally known as the "Essex Troop" until 1913, when the troop together with another was expanded into the First Squadron of Cavalry, National Guard of New Jersey.

Following service on the Mexican Border in 1916 the troop returned to state control briefly, but in 1917 was once again mustered into Federal service. This time the "yellow-legs" were not to serve as horse, assigned to the 29th "Blue and Gray" Division the New Jersey troopers were soon organized into artillery, military police, and headquarters units for their division. Dismounted, but lacking none of the spirit of good "horse-soldiers" the Jersey Guardsmen participated with their division in the Alsace, and Meuse-Argonne campaigns.

Service with the American Expeditionary Forces over, the veterans of the Essex troop returned to their peacetime pursuits and in September 1920 sought Federal recognition for a reorganized 1st Squadron of Cavalry, New Jersey, National Guard.

In 1921 the Squadron was expanded into a regiment and almost immediately was redesignated 102d Cavalry Regiment.

During the "piping times of peace" between World Wars the regiment assured its niche in military-equestrian affairs. Then, in early 1941, after having been reorganized as a horse-mechanized regiment in November of 1940, the regiment was once again called to the Federal service. Within a year it lost its "horse-mechanized" designation for one of "mechanized;" the 102d was to fight World War II mounted on (or in) light armored vehicles, not horses.

Dismounted officially in April 1942, the regiment itself was reorganized in November 1943 and January 1944. On the first date the 2d Squadron became the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized. In January 1944, the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop of the regiment became the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop. 102d Cavalry Group, Mechanized, and the 1st Squadron became the 102d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized. Concurrent with its re-designation as the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, the 2d Squadron of the Regiment was detached from the 102d and sent to North Africa. Replacing the lost squadron there was attached the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, a Regular Army unit which was to serve with the Group for the balance of its World War II duty.

The 117th Squadron went from North Africa to Italy, and was in the forefront of the Seventh Army from the landing in Southern France through Provence to Lorraine and into Austria.

The 102d Cavalry Group, as an element of the V Corps fought gallantly from OMAHA Beach to Torgau and Pilsen in Czechoslovakia.

When the various elements of the old regiment came to tally their World War II records they found that they had earned for their services a French Criox de Guerre with palm (embroidered Beaches of Normandy) and 7 battle honors; Normandy (with arrowhead for assault landing), Northern France, Ardennes-Alsace, Rhineland, Central Europe, Rome-Arno, and Southern France (with arrowhead for assault landing). In addition one of the regiment's companys had earned the Belgian Fourragere, for having been twice cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army; once for action in Belgium, and once for action in the Ardennes.

Re-formed after World War II the Regiment became the 102d (Essex Troop) Armored Cavalry Regiment, New Jersey Army National Guard, and in 1959 as a result of a major National Guard reorganization the Regiment's 3d Squadron was assigned to the Vermont Army National Guard.

The present day color party, shown in the accompanying photo, is, except for the substitution of trousers for boots and breeches, turned out in the dress uniform of the "thirties, a modification in some details of the earlier dress shown in the MUIA plate. In the main, the changes involved extension of the busby top to form a "bag" of cavalry yellow which hangs down on the left side of the busby and is secured by a brass button at its lower extremity, addition of the star or sunburst to the busby insignia, replacement of the shoulder knots and sleeve braid by shoulder straps and slashed flaps at the cuffs of cavalry yellow, elimination of buttons and flashes on the blouse

tails, and substitution of a black "garrison" belt for the earlier sword belt.

The M41 light tank behind the color party bears the unit insignia and the name of one of the Regiment's engagements of World War II, a custom the 102d apparently shares with the 2d Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Regular Army (Cf. MC&H, XI, p. 58).

The color party, posed especially for this article, bears the national standard, the buff colored standard of the state of New Jersey, and one of the earliest of the Essex Troop's yellow standards from their armory trophy room. At the time this photo was made the current Regimental standard (bearing the streamers representing the unit's battle honors) was on display in a special exhibit at the state capitol.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Landry, Jr.

'This photograph will be found on page 79 with the text of the MUIA plate.

PUBLICATIONS

Recent months have seen the release of several worthwhile books on firearms. First of all, the Stackpole Company published the sixth edition of W. H. B. Smith's Small Arms of the World (\$15.00). Long the standard reference for all students of modern military small arms, this huge 711-page volume has been brought up to date as new weapons have been adopted and as material on older weapons has been declassified and made available. W. H. B. Smith himself died in the interval following the appearance of the fifth edition, and the task of editing and correcting the present volume fell to Joseph E. Smith (no relative) of the Office of the Chief of Ordnance. He has done a thorough and competent job while being careful not to alter the personal opinions of his predecessors. It may be hoped that one day he will revise and correct the historical portion of the text so that it will be comparable in value to the data on recent weapons. For years it has been the one real weakness, and its revision would make a most valuable book even more valuable.

Another very useful book in the weapons field is the most recent of the National Rifle Association Handbook series, the *Illustrated Firearms Assembly Handbook*. In this volume are magnificently detailed drawings of 77 firearms ranging from the model 1851 Colt navy revolver through the most recent sporting arms. Both American and foreign arms are covered by the contributors, principally, James M. Triggs, E. J. Hoffschmidt, and Thomas E. Wessel. In addition, 37 of the "Man to Remember" series by Member Harold L. Peterson have also been included. Copies of this 160-page book are sold for \$2.50 to members of the National Rifle Association and \$3.50 to non-members. Interested persons should write the Association at 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

Students and collectors of sporting and target arms will be particularly interested in the latest release by the Stackpole Company: The Story of Pope's Barrels by Ray M. Smith (\$10.00). Harry M. Pope made some of the finest rifle barrels ever produced in the United States, and in the volume his life, philosophy, and techniques are discussed with considerable authority by an experienced marksman who knew both Pope and many of his contemporaries.

An excellent example of a detailed treatise on one weapon has just been published by Herbert Jenkins Ltd. of London: The Lee-Enfield Rifle by Major E. G. B. Reynolds (42 shillings-about \$5.90). In 224 pages of text the author gives a brief background for the Lee-Enfield and then proceeds to trace it through its development, adoption, and major and minor modifications through the sixty years of its use to the present day. No phase of development, trial, or review has been omitted, and numerous halftone and line illustrations supplement the text to make meanings clear. There is even an excellent plate of marks and their meanings, and the evolution of the various bayonet patterns is considered as well as the rifle itself. Major Reynolds' own experience as a technical officer dealing with small arms and his years as a competitive rifle shooter have combined to provide him with a thorough background knowledge for such a book.

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to report that COMPANY Fellow Berkeley R. Lewis' excellent volume Small Arms and Ammunition in the United States Service is being reprinted by the Smithsonian Institution and will again be available to students at the remarkably reasonable price of \$8.00. For a full review see MC&H, VIII, p. 118.

Somehow we omitted to mention the fact previously that Company Fellow Lewis also prepared the second in the series of handsome booklets on Civil War Ordnance to be published by the American Ordnance Association. Entitled Notes on Ammunition of the American Civil War, 1861-1865, it is similar in format to the first of the series, Notes on Ordnance of the American Civil War prepared by Company Fellows Harold L. Peterson and Robert L. Miller. Both small arms and artillery ammunition are discussed and illustrated with excellent line drawings. Copies may be purchased from the American Ordnance Association, Mills Building, Washington, D. C.

Member James C. Tily, who coordinates the Military Uniforms In America series for THE COMPANY, also publishes uniform plates himself. His previous

releases of the Danish units in the Virgin Islands and the Civil Engineers of the U.S. Navy have been mentioned here previously. Now the first two plates in a new series on the French troops in Canada, 1755-1760, have just appeared. The drawings were made by Member Eugene Leliepvre of France, a specialist in French uniforms of this era who has also done plates for THE COMPANY. The hand coloring on these plates, which was also done in France, is superb, with detail and shadings which would have been prohibitively expensive in this country. The texts have been written by Marcel Baldet, Secretary General of "La Sabretache," another recognized authority in the field. Plate I depicts the La Reine and Languedoc Regiments and Plate 2 the Rousillon Regiment of Infantry. all of whom served at Fort Ticonderoga, then known as Fort Carillon. In format, these plates are almost identical to those of THE COMPANY. The text is printed separately as it is with THE COMPANY, except that in this instance no documentation is given. These plates will be sold at Fort Ticonderoga for \$4.00 apiece, but COMPANY members may purchase them directly from Captain Tily, 615 Oxford Road, Bala-Cynwyd, Pennsylvania, for \$3.50 apiece or \$6.50 for both.

One of the most delightful volumes of military memoirs to appear in many years is Charles Johnson Post's The Little War of Private Post (Little, Brown and Company, \$6.50). An artist, endowed with a fine sense of humor and a keen eye for detail, Post recreates the atmosphere of the Spanish-American War as no other book has yet done. This is no discussion of tactics or command or broad principals. It is the war as one man saw it from his enlistment through the landing at Siboney, the battles San Juan Hill and Bloody Ford, the hospitals, and the long trip home. Much of the information is reminiscent of John Billings' Hardtack and Coffee but always with the personal narrative that Billings omitted in his valuable Civil War book. Here is information on the Merriam pack, its advantages and disadvantages and how many bottles of whiskey could be fitted into it if packed properly; the medical value of red flannel belly-bands, and the advantages of sowbelly as an all-purpose food. Like Billings, Post could supplement his written descriptions with drawings and paintings. Sixteen black-and-white and four colored reproductions of his paintings appear in this volume. There is little detail in them for the student of uniforms and equipment. Post was interested in the mood and the overall scene, and these he has captured admirably. In 1958 Little Brown published *The Splendid Little War*, an excellent overall pictorial and textural history of the war. The present volume adds the personal touch as a fine companion piece.

Of the spate of books related to the Civil War which have appeared in recent months, two are of particular interest to members of the COMPANY. both published by Oxford University Press. One is primarily a picture book: Horsemen Blue and Gray with pictures selected by Hirst Milhollen and text by James R. Johnson and Alfred H. Bill (\$10.00). The narrative is light and superficial, designed primarily as an accompaniment to the pictures, and it is here that the real value of the volume is found. Hirst Milhollen is well-known for his research in graphic materials, and the Civil War period has already seen some of the results of his work in Divided We Fought and They Who Fought Here. Once again, he has succeeded in finding most interesting and informative pictures, many of which have never before been published. All students of dress, uniforms, and equipment will be delighted at the visual documentation in their fields which he has presented.

The second volume is an entirely different matter. Grape and Cannister by L. Van Loan Naisawald (\$10.00) is a detailed and thorough study of the field artillery of the Army of the Potomac throughout the war. The emphasis is on organization and employment of the arm with only small sections on materiel (though the author is quick to point out that the "grape" in the title is in deference to a popular phrase and that he does not believe that any grape was actually fired by a Union field piece during the war). As such it is a worthy companion to Jennings Wise's Long Arm of Lee, the new edition of which the author recently edited for Oxford as well. Here is fascinating reading for any student of artillery and a very real contribution to knowledge. It will long be the standard reference on the subject.

A new volume in Major R. Money Barnes' series on British and Commonwealth uniforms has just been published. The book, Military Uniforms of Britain & the Empire (Seeley Service, 42s) can be obtained from most U.S. booksellers for about \$6.50, a fair price considering the 16 color plates, many with four figures on them, and the wealth of line drawings which are color keyed. Military minaturists, particularly, should find considerable use for this book, and it is probable that new figures to match some of the units Barnes has portrayed will crop up soon in makers' catalogs.

The layout of this book differs somewhat from the author's previous works in that there is less attempt to provide a running historical narrative. The text is keyed to the individual plates which range over 200 years of military history and a host of different units. In some ways the varied collection gives evidence of being the overage from Barnes' two previous works with a generous sprinkling of illustrations of colonial troops thrown in for good measure. The faults that were present in the earlier books are still evident now from the standpoint of a serious student; there is no attempt to indicate the sources of these uniforms or of the sweeping generalizations that characterize the descriptions. Barnes is more at home drawing weapons and equipment than he is sketching figures, but his artistry is adequate for showing the uniforms. The color key can be followed, and the use of many black and white line cuts has enabled him to show more uniforms than would have been the case had he stuck to color plates entirely. Certainly, those who have found use for Barnes' previous volumes on British and Scottish uniforms will want this latest offering.

This may be a good time to call the attention of our readers to the quarterly publication of the Societé Belge d'Etudes de l'Uniforme et du Costume, a parallel organization to The Company in Belgium. Now in its 22nd year of publication, La Figurine is a mimeographed journal. It is illustrated with numerous text illustrations and each issue contains 5 plates on paper suitable for water colors. The four issues which comprise each year's subscription total 120-150 pages. Articles cover costume and uniforms, weapons, flags, museum collections, and the like. There is an initiation fee of 25 francs, and a corresponding membership costs 250 francs. A Belgian franc equals (draft

rate) \$.02 in American money. Payment may be made by international money order to "La Figurine," 33, Rue du Luxembourg, Brussels 4, Belgium.

COMPANY Fellow Robert Abels has just published the second in his series of pamphlets on bowie knives and tomahawks. A 48-page booklet, it contains photographs and descriptions of 91 knives, 7 tomahawks, and numerous trade cards, letterheads, and illustrations of factories and firms connected with the manufacture or sale of cutlery. Copies may be obtained directly from the author, 860 Lexington Avenue, New York City 21, N. Y., at \$2.00.

Although they are not the sort of thing that one would normally classify as a publication, this seems the appropriate place to mention three new motion pictures prepared by COMPANY Member G. Burling Jarrett. These latest releases form part of his immensely valuable record of World War I and are entitled "Some Victories of Richtofen," "Death of Richtofen," and "Funeral of Richtofen." All are 100 feet in length and may be purchased in either 16mm or 8mm. Some of the sequences are composed from still pictures and early documentary films, but the scenes of the funeral comprise original footage of the actual ceremony and are most interesting. Prints may be obtained directly from Col. Jarrett, RD #1, Box 173, Aberdeen, Maryland. The 16mm reels cost \$6 apiece; the 8mm reels \$3

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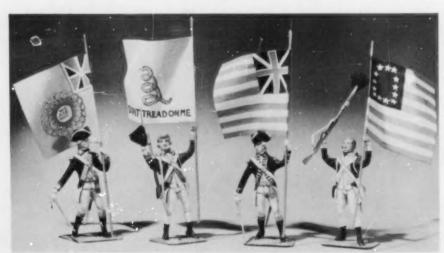
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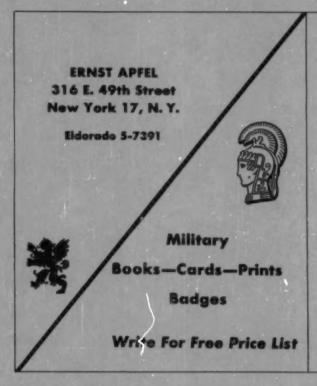
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